

2. STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

The first step of this hunting on Sunday study was to identify the stakeholders that need to be considered and involved in the assessment during the remaining tasks (e.g., focus groups). We began this process by working with WRC personnel to identify stakeholder types, specific groups, and specific people. Those contacts then were asked to expand on our list if needed. Two types of stakeholders were identified and were involved in the initial round of stakeholder meetings. External stakeholders (those external to the WRC itself) and internal stakeholders (WRC staff) were both deemed critical components of this exploratory phase.

To address both sets of stakeholders, 2 sets of 3 stakeholders meetings were coordinated and facilitated – 1 of each type (public, internal) in each WRC administrative region (Coast, Piedmont, and Mountain). The purpose of these stakeholder meetings was to ensure that the research team was aware of as many issues and stakeholders surrounding hunting on Sunday as possible so that these ideas and groups could be incorporated into the qualitative and quantitative phases of the this study. These meetings were strictly exploratory, and thus, the descriptions given here are brief and meant simply to introduce the issues and familiarize the reader with the concerns of stakeholders.

The stakeholder meetings took place Tuesday, January 24, 2006, in Asheville, Wednesday, January 25, 2006, in Raleigh, and Thursday, January 26, 2006, in Greenville. In each case, the internal stakeholder meeting was held in the afternoon (1:30-4pm), and the public stakeholder meeting was held that evening (7-9pm). The specific locations of each meeting are listed in Appendix A.

In addition to the stakeholder meetings conducted by the research team, the WRC solicited input on the issue of hunting on Sunday at 9 public meetings held at various locations around the state in mid-January, 2006.

Public Stakeholder Meetings

After identifying the types of public stakeholders that needed to be included (e.g., federal agencies, hunting groups, religious groups), we worked with WRC staff and others to identify specific groups that represented each stakeholder type. Where personal contact information for each group was not available, we relied on Internet searches to obtain this information for needed groups. Representatives from each stakeholder group identified were contacted either via phone or email (if needed, with a fax follow-up) about a stakeholder meeting to be held in their region and asked to send a representative from their group (or attend themselves/suggest an alternative if an individual) to participate.

We invited individuals representing groups within various types of stakeholders. Groups were contacted, given background information about the project and the purpose of the meetings, and asked to send a representative from their group to the meeting scheduled in their region. The list below shows the types of stakeholders invited, lists sample groups that were contacted within each stakeholder group, and the number of people (underlined) that were actually present at one or more meeting within each stakeholder type (some individuals fit into more than one category).